



# News Release

## PRESS OFFICE

---

Connecticut District Office  
330 Main Street 2<sup>nd</sup>. Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106-1800  
Tel. (860) 240-4700  
Website: [www.sba.gov/ct](http://www.sba.gov/ct)

Contact: Debra Dillon  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Tel: (860) 240-4654  
Fax: (860) 240-4659  
Email: [Debra.Dillon@sba.gov](mailto:Debra.Dillon@sba.gov)

---

Release Date: For Immediate Release  
Release Number: 2005:21

## WALLINGFORD RESIDENT NAMED SBA 2005 WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

**Hartford** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named **Janet A. Testa**, Vice President – Operations, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce 2005 Women in Business Champion of the Year.

“Janet Testa’s advocacy on behalf of the woman-owned business community was key points in her selection for this honor,” said Charles E. Summers, Jr., the SBA’s New England Regional Administrator. “Her award is a strong example of the high regard in which she is held by the Connecticut small business community.”

Since 1999 Janet Testa has served as Vice President–Operations for the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, and has been extremely committed to the advancement of women’s business ownership. In this capacity, Janet oversees the day-to-day operations of the chamber and works with member businesses of all sizes to enhance the business climate in the Greater New Haven region. Since many Chamber members are women-owned businesses as well as financial institutions, Janet has provided business services to increase business and financial opportunities for women.

Five years ago Janet envisioned a large-scale business-to-business expo. The result was the annual Southern Connecticut Business Expo, which includes hundreds of exhibitors, as well as educational seminars for existing and potential small businesses and occurs annually. These expos provide venues for women-owned small businesses to exhibit and network with other businesses and organizations in the community. Janet was also involved in planning and offering educational business seminars for the Today’s Women’s Expo held last November. She participated as a panel member for the “Strategies of Business Survival: How to Attain Business Success – and Maintain it!” session.

Janet’s career includes working as a legal secretary and paralegal as well as a Program Coordinator at Yale University. This background has enabled her to provide legal, financial and managerial assistance and referrals to women-owned small businesses and other chamber members through her vast network of contacts. Janet’s efforts to promote business in the region extend far beyond the boundaries of Greater New Haven. She has collaborated with the Secretary of the State’s Office to promote the Small and Minority Business Showcase in New Haven, and the Successful Women in Business initiative. In welcoming the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities’ General Assembly to New Haven in 2004, she worked closely with the Office of the Mayor of New Haven. She also helped found the Long Wharf Business Association.

-More-

## **Wallingford Resident Receives Recognition / pg. 2**

For several years Janet has worked with the Network for Entrepreneurial Women (CT-3), which has opened the lines of communications between the Chamber, women small business owners and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office. This organization provides an open forum for local women-owned businesses to bring their issues directly to the attention of the Congresswoman representing their district while making the Chamber aware of the needs of the business owners.

Janet is also involved as the President of the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven. She serves as a member of the Board of Directors Chapel Haven, Inc., and the Business Advisory Council for Area Cooperative Educational Services' adult program, The Sawyer School, Gateway Community College and National Student Partnership. Previously, she served as a member of the Board of Directors of Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven. She was a member of the steering committee for the Successful Women in Business conferences 2002, 2003 and 2004. She is an active member of the ACCE (Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives) and served as Chair of the Management and Finance Special Interest Group. Janet resides in Wallingford with her husband and stepdaughter.

-###-

Connecticut award recipients will be honored at an awards dinner on May 19, 2005. If you would like more information on the reception or next year's nominations contact (860) 240-4700 or visit [www.sba.gov/ct](http://www.sba.gov/ct).

Small businesses have been essential to sustaining our nation's and our state's economic health. Entrepreneurs and advocates play a vital role in the ongoing business development efforts, and their accomplishments are worthy of recognition. The nomination process begins in September of each year and is coordinated by your local SBA office.